



June 25, 2012

Kathy Cook, Director  
Community Planning & Development  
City of Bainbridge Island  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

*Hand Delivered for City Council Meeting June 27, 2012 Attention City Administration*

Dear Ms. Cook:

We understand that the City Council will discuss construction activities tonight at the Hidden Cove Road End. The Park District is on record in assisting in a collaborative manner the City in protecting and enhancing its public road ends. The efforts of the City's Road Ends Committee have made tremendous gains in stewarding and enhancing the public's ability to access the shoreline along the community's designated publicly owned access points. These efforts are particularly important as the island is comprised of a circumference of 53-miles of shoreline, while less than 10% of this total is available for public shoreline access. Importantly, the State of Washington's Shoreline Management Act requires shoreline communities to define and preserve shoreline public access as a matter of State law (RCW 90.58). Although we understand the current question at this road end is a complex matter involving the City Attorney, we would like to continue to endorse public access at publicly owned road ends.

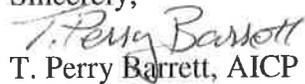
The importance of public shoreline access is an ongoing concern and plays out in the land use and population dynamic. Of the community's 23,025 residents, approximately 14% of this population total live along the shoreline. While the remainder of the population, 86 percent of residents, live in-land. The underlying tension is that both in-land dwellers and shoreline dwellers are residents sharing a common geographic reference. For the non-shoreline owning members of the public, their only access to the Puget Sound shoreline is through publicly owned land, including public parks and road ends at the shoreline. Protection of the public's physical access to, views of, beach access and beach walks on the island are critical components in maintaining the community's sense of place and is a defining element reflected in community surveys.

Incorporating this sentiment and State law, the District inventories with the City the Hidden Cove Road End (#49) for its public access and shoreline designations. A land survey conducted in 1996 confirmed this site as such, reflected in the Road Ends Committee action plan. Comprehensive planning efforts characterized the site most recently in the *Bainbridge Island*

*Metro Park Plan, 2008, see Appendix D.2: Land and Facilities Demand, Waterfront Access –*  
There is no surplus of public waterfront access sites and the level of service in the plan.  
Additional planning documentation relates that this site is part of a beach walk; see *Bainbridge Island Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan, Agate Passage, page 53*. With public ownership and plan documentation, the Hidden Cove Road End has benefitted from CIP improvements in 2006 according to the Road End Status Update.

In light of the upcoming discussion regarding the road end and the City's consideration, we continue to assert public access to public lands at the shoreline- a position that has long been held as a common reference point linking our two agencies working at times simultaneously and separately to advance this publicly held aim.

Sincerely,



T. Perry Barrett, AICP

Sr. Planner

Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Parks

CC: Park District:

Terry Lande, Executive Director

Commissioners:

Ken DeWitt, Chair